

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No.: 1348.105.US

In re the Patent application of

Patrick J. Butler et al

Serial No.: 10/059,044

Filed: January 30, 2002

For: Clamp Assembly for Feedwater Sparger End
Bracket Assembly and Methods Therefor

Examiner: H. Behrend

Group Art Unit: 3641

AWAL

RESPONSE

MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATIONS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

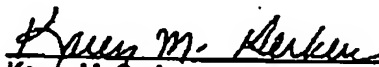
Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the Office Action of March 1, 2004, requiring restriction of the subject patent application to one of Inventions I, II or III and election of Species A or B.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Invention I and Species A for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-18 directed to a clamp correspond to Invention I and claims 1-18 are readable on Species A.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable action on the merits of the subject application is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen M. Gerken
Registration No. 31,161

EPSTEIN & GERKEN
1901 Research Boulevard, Suite 340
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(301) 610-7634

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